

CLASSIFICATION

**SECRET**

SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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## Propaganda

1. [ ] the fate of deserters to the west:
- (a) Political officers told [ ] at the beginning, deserters were well treated and thoroughly exploited by Western authorities. After interrogation, they were either returned to Soviet authorities, or executed, or, at best, disowned by Western authorities and left to their own devices, which meant starvation or leading a miserable existence. These officers said that the USSR was ready to forgive all deserters, and that those who regretted their acts and returned to the USSR, were re-educated and permitted to live as free men in the USSR.
- (b) Line officers and associates told [ ] that no deserters were returned by the Western Powers, but all were helped to establish a new life regardless of whether or not they supplied intelligence information.
- (c) Germans told [ ] that deserters to the West received good clothing, good food, money, and a possibility to emigrate to various countries.

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Fraternization

2. Fraternization (including any type of social contact with Germans, regardless of sex) was strictly prohibited. Any officer, civilian or EM was officially expected to report any Soviet officer, civilian, or EM who had had any social contact with Germans. Except for secret informers, however, no officer, civilian or EM would report others. German police were supposed to detain German girls who were in the company of Soviet personnel for questioning by Soviet authorities. German police did not arrest or detain Soviet personnel but were supposed to inform the Kommandatura of Soviet personnel seen fraternizing.

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Most Party members, unless they were secret informers, ignored fraternization carried on by others. Kommandatura patrols were expected to arrest all fraternizers, however, in many cases the officers in charge of a Kommandatura patrol permitted officers of their acquaintance to "disappear" without reporting or arresting them. MVD units in Leipzig had the same status as other troops (ie, signal, tank or engineer troops). It was no more the official responsibility of the MVD to report and prevent fraternization, than that of any other regular army unit. OKR-MGB (these terms meant the same) had a special section (Osobyi Otdel - OO) charged with reporting and preventing fraternization.

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Security

3. EM assigned to ISU #23 performed internal security guard duty at the entrances of ISU #23 and its sub-units. Officers assigned to ISU #23 needed no identification to enter the unit area. Other officers and civilians wishing to enter the area of ISU #23, had to state to the OD whom they wished to see and for what purpose, and were permitted to enter only after being vouched for by the person being visited. Soviet EM were not permitted to leave or enter the area of ISU #23 unless in formation and with an officer escort.

4. There were MVD units in Leipzig, which were quartered alongside ISU #23 (See Encl (A)7). They wore green shoulder boards.

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MVD troops in Leipzig worked with the Volkspolizei, training them for borderguard duty. the MVD barracks were next to the Volkspolizei barracks, and that the MVD barracks had many dogs. MVD units were assigned to guard railroads, concentration camps, perform convoy duty, etc. MVD troops in Leipzig were at the disposal of the MGB for guard duties.

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5. only MGB officers were in the Zone, and they utilized MVD soldiers in the execution of their duties. MGB officers were assigned to each military unit in the Soviet Zone of Germany. ISU #23 had a new MGB officer, a major who was assigned just prior to March 1952.

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6. MVD troops had no authority to arrest Soviet military personnel, as did MGB troops.

7. An unknown censorship unit in Potsdam censored all incoming and outgoing mail of ISU #23. It was prohibited for Soviet personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany to write about their place of employment, type of work, or to give military information on OB, T/O & E, etc. People in the USSR were prohibited from writing about food, economic conditions, etc. There were no set penalties for violating censorship directives; the whole censorship procedure was arbitrary, eg. one soldier might write home, "I met Vanya in Leipzig", and the censor would pass it, yet another censor might cross it out.

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Usually the censor crossed out violating lines, but if some restricted matter appeared in a letter, the censor would send the letter to the CO of the offender. In such a case the Counter Intelligence (MGB) officer would start a file on the offender and keep him under observation for espionage activities, or else recommend a court-martial. Officially no mail could be sent via German postal channels. Soviet troops did not use the German post office, but they did send letters through the German employees of their unit.

8. Soviet troops could own cameras. No pictures of military items were permitted, however, and films had to be developed in the PX. Most officers and those soldiers who could get into town, had them developed in German stores.

25X1 9. At times officers of ISU #23 were assigned, according to a roster, to Kommandatura patrols. Their duties [ ] were to apprehend all EM they saw in town, check documents of persons believed to be Soviets, and to arrest all Soviet personnel found in town after midnight. The patrols toured the town of Leipzig, checked the railroad stations, cafes, bars, and restaurants and enforced law and order.

25X1 10. MGB officers wore uniforms of other branches, such as those of artillery or infantry. The MGB major assigned to ISU #23 in March 1952 wore artillery insignia.

#### Foreign Broadcasts

25X1 11. [ ] in Astrakhan /4621N-4803E/, [ ] VOA, BBC, and Yugoslav, Spanish, and Italian Broadcasts in the Russian language. [ ] also listened to the VOA while in Leipzig. The reception was clear, the Russian language was good, and the broadcast could be tuned in on either 31 or 49 m bands. The VOA came in poorly on middle band frequencies due to jamming. [ ] VOA [ ] very dull and repetitious, eg it broadcast the same news of Korea for two months. The endless repetition caused listeners to lose all interest in the VOA programs. VOA discussed only life in the USA and did not compare it with life in the USSR [ ] wanted to hear. [ ]

25X1 12. [ ] The BBC came in clearer than did the VOA. It was also in good Russian. BBC broadcast all news impartially, was very cautious and diplomatic, and was not offensive to the USSR.

25X1 13. [ ] Italian broadcasts from Rome [ ] also were diplomatic and, in fact, friendly to the USSR. They were clear and in good Russian. In contrast, the Yugoslav and Spanish broadcasts from Madrid were vitriolic, mocking and quite outspoken. The Madrid radio was on the 40 m band and came in clear and in good Russian at midnight. It told of all the statues Stalin had had built of himself. The Yugoslav broadcast was on the 245-250 m bands. It was in very poor Russian but minced no words in describing life in the USSR and in insulting Stalin.

#### Miscellaneous

14. Only MGB officers were permitted to have their families in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Other dependents were all returned to the USSR even in cases where they had met and married in the Soviet Zone of Germany. No explanations were ever given for this policy.

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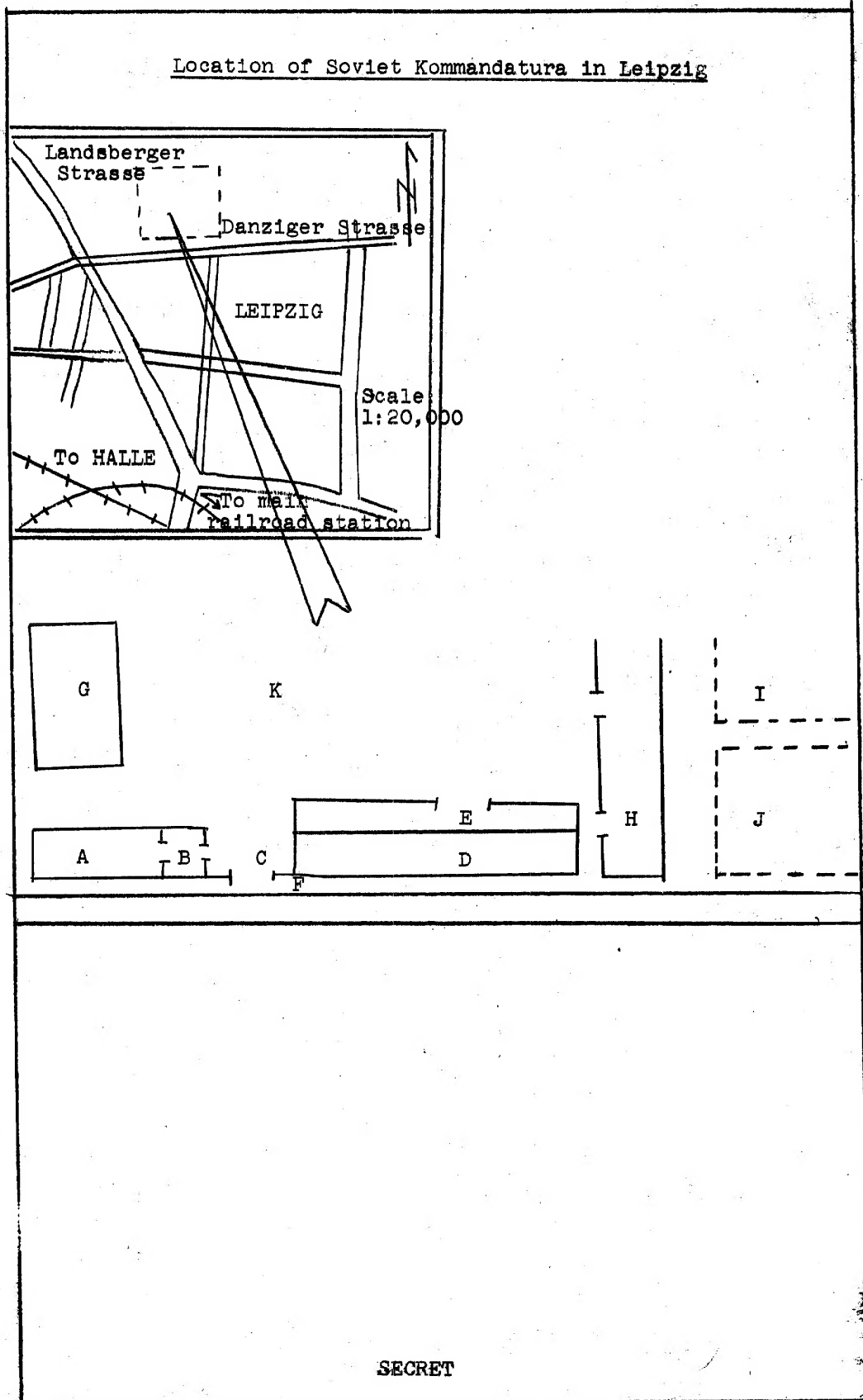
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15. Soviet EM were not permitted to leave the barrack area after duty hours. Officers and civilians could leave the barrack area after duty hours, but had to sign out indicating where they were going, and had to be back and signed in by midnight. The political or MGB officer called the OD at midnight, and inquired as to who had failed to return. On rare occasions the OD would check all officers' rooms.
16. The SCC (Soviet Control Commission) civilian personnel had more freedom than did officers or civilians working for the Army. While the SCC civilians were not permitted to fraternize, they were permitted to live among Germans and not in special billets, and had their own club (Boehme Club) in Leipzig, where no curfew existed.
17. An average of 10 officers and 20 EM were usually in the guardhouse in Leipzig for drunkenness, AWOL, refusal to carry out orders, and for falling asleep during political lectures. In the Summer of 1951, 60 soldiers of a penal battalion were sent to my machine shops to saw wood. About 15 EM refused to do any work and received 10 days in the guardhouse. Drunkenness was common. Officers and EM bought alcoholic drinks through German employees of ISU #23. All officers drank including Col A P Siryuk, chief of ISU #23.
- 25X1 18. In January 1952 a friend [ ] contacted VD and reported it to a Soviet doctor. Within 24 hours he was escorted by an MGB officer to Brest Litovsk, from there, according to hearsay from a MGB agent, the MVD took him for forced labor in Siberia. Others cured VD secretly. [ ]
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19. Officers of ISU #23 carried on black market activities in direct disobedience of orders, and frequented German cafes, bars, and restaurants.
20. Order #0172 issued in April 1951 by Chuikov, CG of the GOFG, was intended to enforce discipline. The order prohibited drinking and fraternization and called for HO stores /Handels Organization/, to be established in all military units so as to preclude the necessity of personnel going into town to a central PX. The order also prohibited Soviet personnel from visiting German movies, theaters, cabarets, cafes, bars, restaurants, and circuses; and prohibited all business deals such as black marketing, with Germans. The penalties for violating orders were:
- (a) A reprimand for the first violation.
- (b) Demotion by one or two grades for successive violations.
- (c) Court-martial and return to the USSR for persistent violations.
- 25X1 Morale was low among Soviet officers in ISU #23 due to restrictions on personal freedom and constant surveillance. [ ]
- 25X1 [ ]
- 25X1 [ ]
- 25X1 Enclosure A: Location of Soviet Kommandatura in Leipzig

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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Legend to Enclosure 

Location of Soviet Kommandatura in Leningrad

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The Kommandatura had 21 (twenty-one) officers and about 25 (twenty-five) EM; the EM were telephone and radio men and guards.

Eight German women were working in the Kommandatura as cleaning women and waitresses.

Two German men were employed as firemen.

Chief of the Kommandatura was Colonel Nikolay Nikolayevich SCHROSEKOV, and his deputy was Leonid Petrovich IVANOV.

**Details of sketch:**

- A. Central Kommandatura
- B. Reception room of Kommandatura
- C. Entrance to Kommandatura
- D. Club, casino for officers of Kommandatura
- E. Kitchen for EM of Kommandatura
- F. Danzigerstrasse
- G. Barracks for Kommandatura troops
- H. Barracks for Air Force Engineer Troops
- I. Bath
- J. Stadium
- K. Yard
- j — Entrance to buildings

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